



21 May 2004



SAFETY ALERT **Motorcycle Safety**

1. Two USAREUR Soldiers were recently involved in serious motorcycle crashes. One was critically injured when he ran into a wall. The other was killed in a head-on collision. The carnage continues. Indications are that both Soldiers were engaged in unsafe and dangerous motorcycle operations. Neither of these Soldiers had completed the Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) training. This training is required by DOD, but we failed to ensure that these Soldiers met this critical requirement.
2. The Soldier who died was an experienced rider, was wearing the proper safety equipment, and was not under the influence of alcohol or drugs. However, he was attempting to pass on a curve in a passing zone when he hit an oncoming vehicle. Accident investigators estimate that he was traveling over 100 miles per hour at the time, well over any reasonable passing speed for the type road being traveled.
3. We must do better in preventing tragedies such as these. I expect leaders at all levels to be personally involved in ensuring that motorcycle riders in their units understand the foundation of motorcycle safety.
4. Soldiers who ride motorcycles must understand and accomplish the following:
 - Complete MSF training, which consists of either the Basic Rider Course or the Experienced Rider Course (referred to as a "refresher class" in the Summer Safety Campaign).
 - Review the motorcycle safety information on the USAREUR Safety Web site at http://www.per.hqusareur.army.mil/services/safety/newsafety/motorcycle/_private/motorcycle_survival_skills.htm.
 - Understand that the death rate for motorcyclists is 16 times higher than the death rate for occupants of other types of vehicles.
5. Ensure that this safety alert is given the widest possible distribution by forwarding it electronically and posting it on unit bulletin boards. Comply with its requirements. "No Loss of Life" is our goal.

B. B. BELL
General, USA
Commanding

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